**Book Review: Delivering Development**

At the beginning of his novel, *Delivering Development*, Edward Carr questions why most of our efforts to spread globalization and development do not work in the way that we intend them to. He claims that the reason for most of our failures in these areas is rooted in our basic understanding about development and globalization. There are several assumptions that we make about development and globalization that Carr believes to be fundamentally wrong and seem to be hindering the progress we make in these developing countries. Carr was frustrated about these common misconceptions about life on globalization’s shoreline (people in between of the globalized/developed and non-globalized/undeveloped worlds) and noticed that these common misconceptions seemed to be at the root of many policy and project failures. In order to help those living along globalization’s shoreline, we must better understand the people who are living in these areas and clear up these common misconceptions. Carr claims that there are four major misconceptions that are rooted in our basic understanding of development and globalization and the effect of these processes on those living at globalization’s shoreline.

The first misconception is that we often assume that problems in the developing world are the result of an absence of development. Carr explains that instead of making this assumption, we should instead look at a country’s history to determine what the actual cause of these problems are; more often than not, these problems are originally the result of previous development and/or colonialism. Carr explains that if development and colonialism are the cause of many f the problems in these developing countries, then it doesn’t make sense to try to fix these problems with more development. The second misunderstanding is that the effect development at globalization’s shoreline is almost always negative. Integrating development into the lives of the people living along globalization’s shoreline will not necessarily solve these peoples’ problems. Bringing about development in these countries brings a new set of challenges and uncertainties that almost always has negative impacts on these peoples’ lives. The third misconception is that globalization is a one process. People living on globalization’s shoreline are not as dependent on global goods and markets as people in developed countries are; therefore, their connection to these markets is far less direct. This being said, people living along globalization’s shoreline often choose to globalize and deglobalize based on which action would benefit them most at that certain time. These people can either globalize in order to take advantage opportunities, or deglobalize in order to manage challenges presented by the developing world. The final misconception is that globalization and development directly improve peoples’ lives. Instead, globalization and development create a set of opportunities and challenges, how people respond to these challenges and whether or not they take advantage of these opportunities vary with regard to local needs and conditions. This means peoples’ responses to globalization and development will vary depending on the developing area. Carr states that there is no universal response to globalization or development and that trying to find a universal response is a waste of time and energy.

After introducing these misconceptions and how they influence the way in which development and globalization efforts are received by those living at globalization’s edges, Carr continues on to tell about his experiences in abroad. He relays the experiences he’s had in two villages in central Ghana, Dominse and Ponkrum, and how his experiences in these villages caused him to question our fundamental beliefs about development, globalization, and environmental change. Carr goes on to describe the daily life and the histories of these two villages and how his research and observations led him to pin point the four common misconceptions that were described earlier.